

LATTA
PLACE

Interpretive Master
Planning



designminds

DESIGN + CONTENT



LATTA PLACE

SITE MISSION AND GOALS

Latta Place

Truth – Transparency – Compassion –Transformation – Unity

We believe it is our duty to tell the truth. We resolve to practice transparency in all that we do.

We are dedicated to providing:

- A transformational and engaging experience featuring holistic storytelling filled with truth and empathy.
- An educational experience, giving voice to a multitude of historical perspectives.
- A bridge between the past and present through historical interpretation.
- An essential resource to the residents of the greater Charlotte/Mecklenburg community and beyond.
- A visit that inspires self-examination and application of knowledge.
- A hub for the promotion of historical research and peer-reviewed scholarship.
- A welcome to all visitors with the intent of fostering dignity, while respecting the natural environment in which Latta Place is located.

THE DESIGN MINDS

PROJECT TEAM + COMPANY OVERVIEW

ANDREW HAMILTON, NAI CIP

Senior Interpretive Planner, Project Manager

BILL PIARD

Exhibit Designer, Media Specialist

CARLEY ELDER

Interpretive Planner, Researcher

CIVILITY LOCALIZED (LOCAL FIRM)

- Founded in 1998
- Content + Design
- Mid-Size Firm (15)
- Collaborative Team Effort



designminds

DESIGN + CONTENT

LATTA PLACE

KEY THEMES

- **Perspectives of the Enslaved:** Enslaved Black workers, many trafficked from Africa or the Caribbean, lived, worked, and died at these sites. They brought with them their own knowledge, skills, and beliefs that have impacted Mecklenburg County's growth and culture.
- **Inequality of the Built Environment:** The built environment of Mecklenburg County reflects structural inequality that has been established through decisions made over time and into the present. The labor and craftsmanship of enslaved workers is responsible for many structures that demonstrated the wealth and status of the ruling class during the 18th and 19th centuries. A similar pattern is still apparent today.

LATTA PLACE

KEY THEMES

- **Indigenous Perspectives and Experiences:** Latta Place is located on the ancestral lands of the Catawba Nation who have called this region home since time immemorial. Today, the Tribe maintains strong ties to the land and their ancestors.
- **Culture and Community:** Despite living under violent conditions, enslaved Black people formed communities, worshipped together and engaged in family relationships. Descendants of these communities still call Mecklenburg County home and continue the cultural traditions and histories of their ancestors.

LATTA PLACE

KEY THEMES

- **Utilizing Natural Resources:** Mecklenburg County's land has sustained generations of people, beginning with indigenous groups such as the Catawba Nation. At Latta Place, later generations came to value the land for its potential to support commercial agriculture. Now, careful planning and management help ensure the protection of this landscape into the future.
- **Lasting Legacies:** Systemic racism has institutionalized oppression and inequality into the landscapes, policies and practices of Mecklenburg County. The preservation and interpretation of historic sites allows County residents to reckon with the past and work toward healing.

RECOMMENDATIONS

ALTERNATIVE A - SITE PLAN



Key

- 1 Visitor center
Demolish existing / replace with new restrooms
- 2 Well house
Remove
- 3 Carriage barn
- 4 Latta house
- 5 Kitchen
- 6 Smoke house
- 7 Office
- 8 Dairy + Well house
- 9 Corn crib
- 10 Feed house
Remove
- 11 Animal barn
- 12 Enslaved cabins
Add (2) new additional cabins
- 13 Yeoman's cabin
Relocate
- 14 Chicken coop
Remove
- 16 Well house
- 17 Storage shed
- 18 Alexander cabin
- 19 Miner's cabin
- 20 Beehives
- 21 Gazebo
New gazebo and picnic area

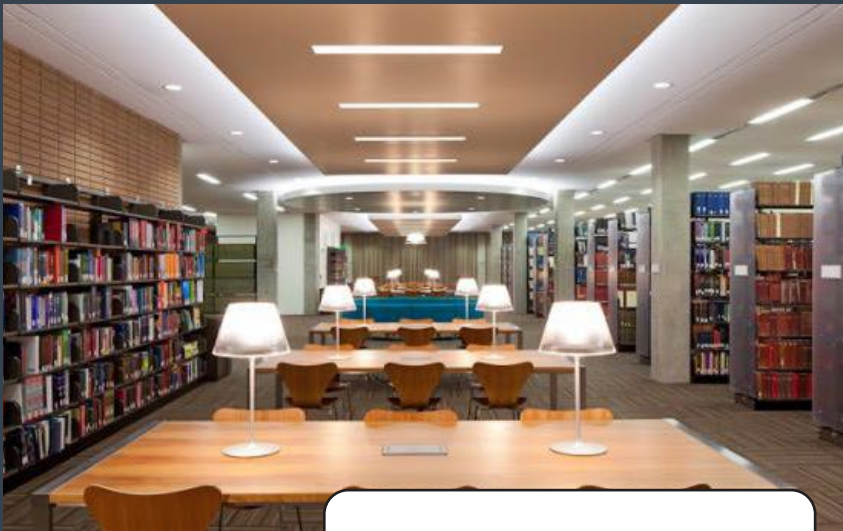
Note

- A Remove fence
- B Parking lot
fits 47 cars
- C Path to water access
- D Remove path to Latta House

- New Visitor Center with a Research/Education area
- New gazebo for outdoor gatherings and programming
- Series of waysides/exhibits with interpretive videos guide visitors
- Main Latta House contains an audio soundscape experience
- Additional recreation enslaved dwellings added

RECOMMENDATIONS

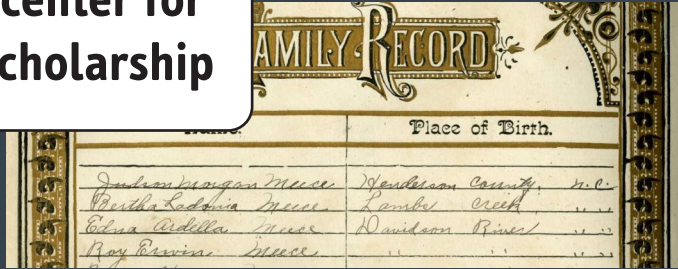
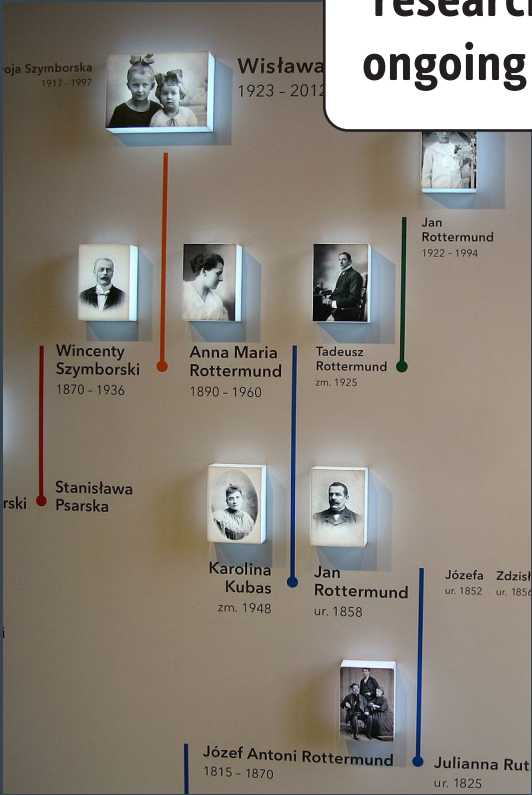
ALTERNATIVE A - DESIGN INSPIRATION



research center for ongoing scholarship



accessible historic sites



incorporating community into the site



RECOMMENDATIONS

ALTERNATIVE A - POTENTIAL DESIGNS



RECOMMENDATIONS

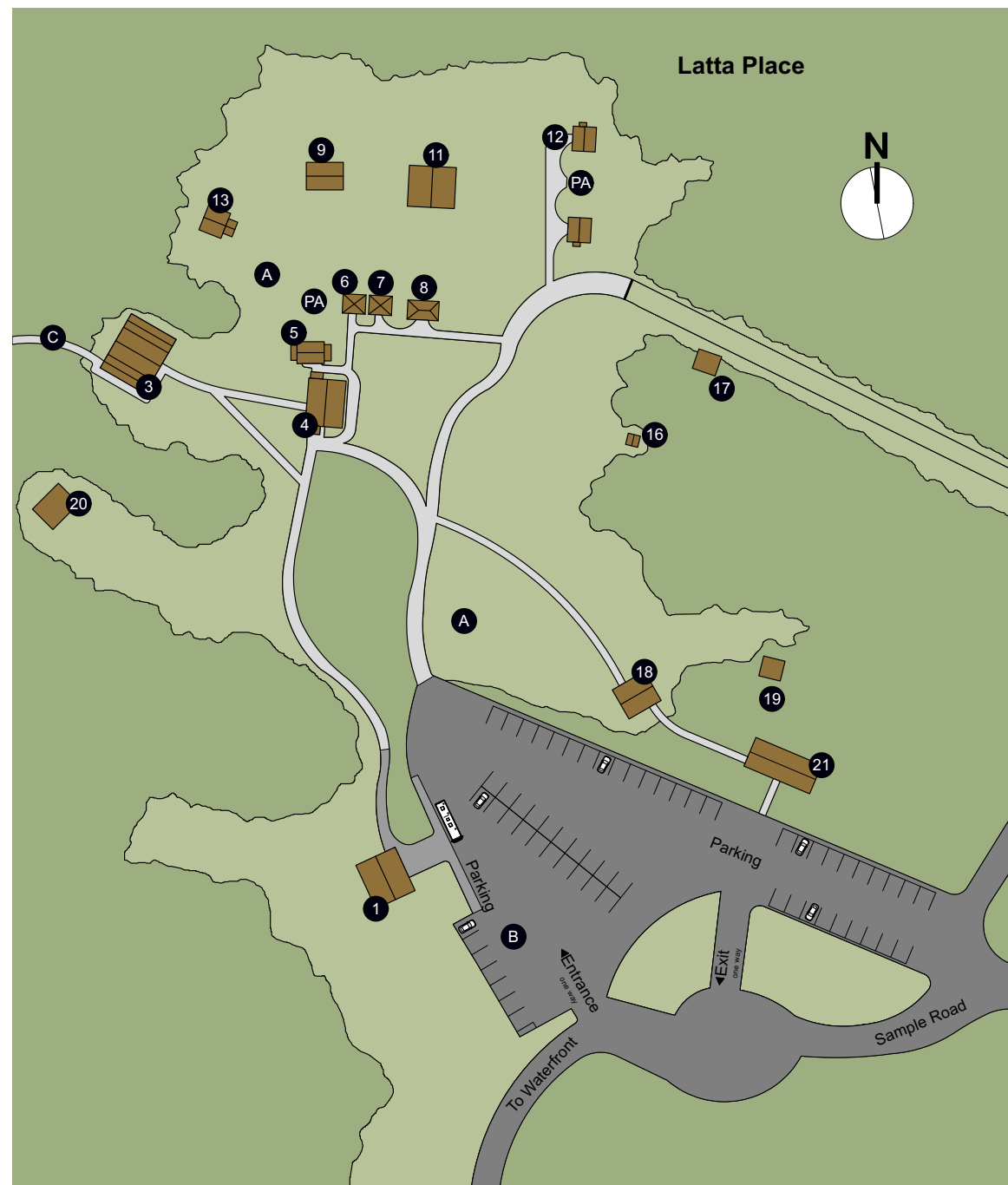
ALTERNATIVE A - POTENTIAL DESIGNS



Short videos can be used to help bring the structures to life, connect visitors with the stories, and promote local businesses, organizations, and key community members.

RECOMMENDATIONS

ALTERNATIVE B - SITE PLAN



1 Site Plan
00.02 Scale: 1:1400

Key

- 1 Visitor center
Demolish existing / replace with a smaller building w/ restrooms, lobby and offices
- 2 Well house
Remove
- 3 Carriage barn
- 4 Latta house
- 5 Kitchen
- 6 Smoke house
- 7 Office
- 8 Dairy + Well house
- 9 Corn crib
- 10 Feed house
Remove
- 11 Animal barn
- 12 Enslaved cabins
Add (2) new additional cabins
- 13 Yeoman's cabin
Relocate
- 14 Chicken coop
Remove
- 16 Well house
- 17 Storage shed
- 18 Alexander cabin
- 19 Miner's cabin
- 20 Beehives
- 21 Gazebo
New gazebo and picnic area

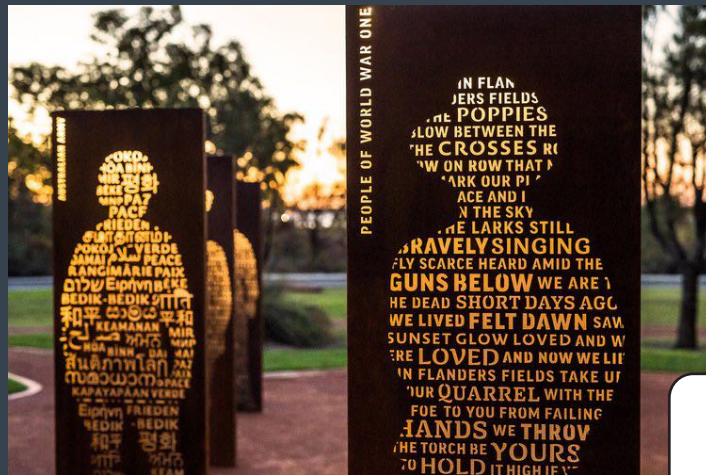
Note

- A Remove fence
- B Parking lot
expended parking lot (fits 61 cars)
- C Path to water access
- PA Public art

- New, smaller Visitor Center with parking
- New gazebo for outdoor gatherings and programming
- Self-guided or interpreter lead tours of the site
- Public Art installations on site and in community gallery
- Historic buildings closed except during special tours
- Expanded parking

RECOMMENDATIONS

ALTERNATIVE B - DESIGN INSPIRATION



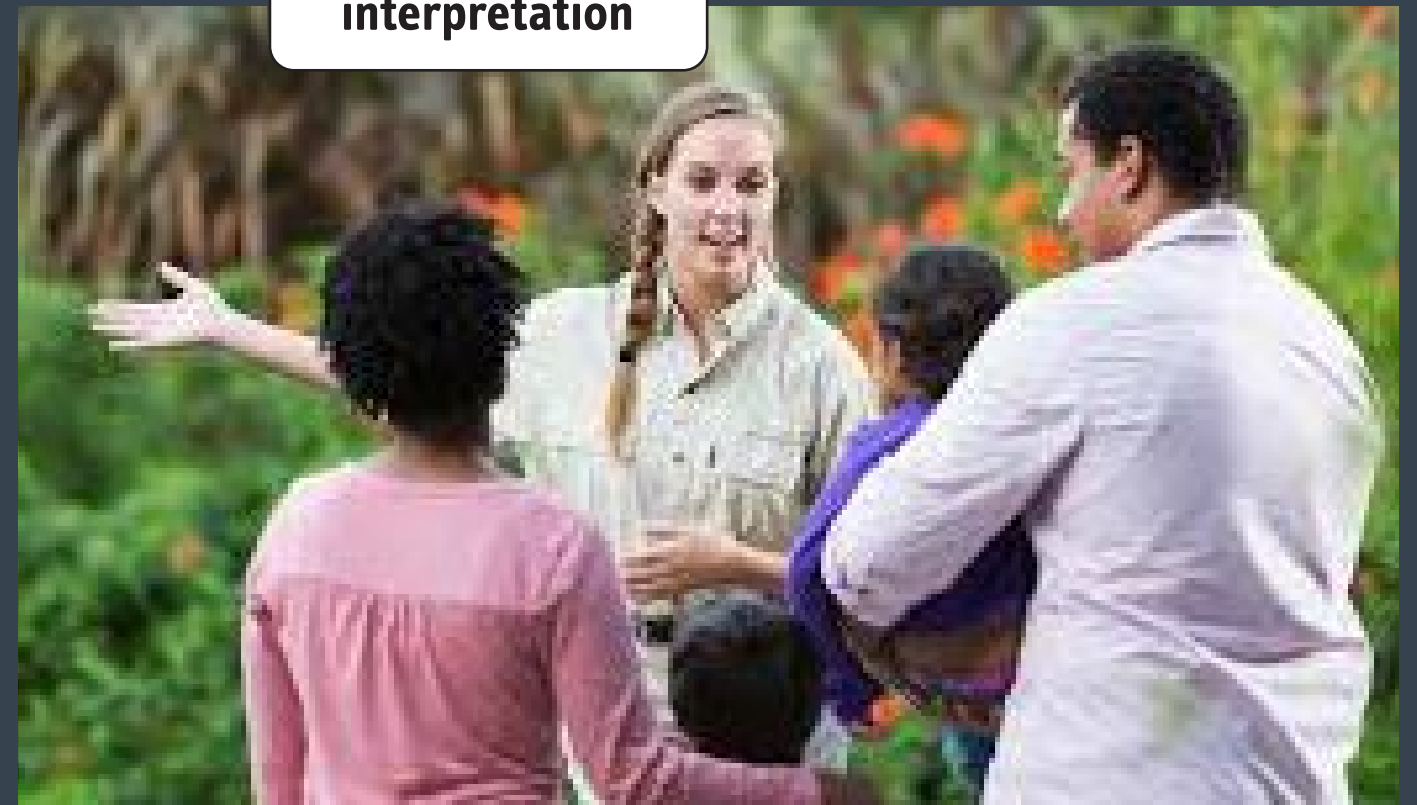
public art +
reflective spaces



in-person
interpretation



outdoor waysides



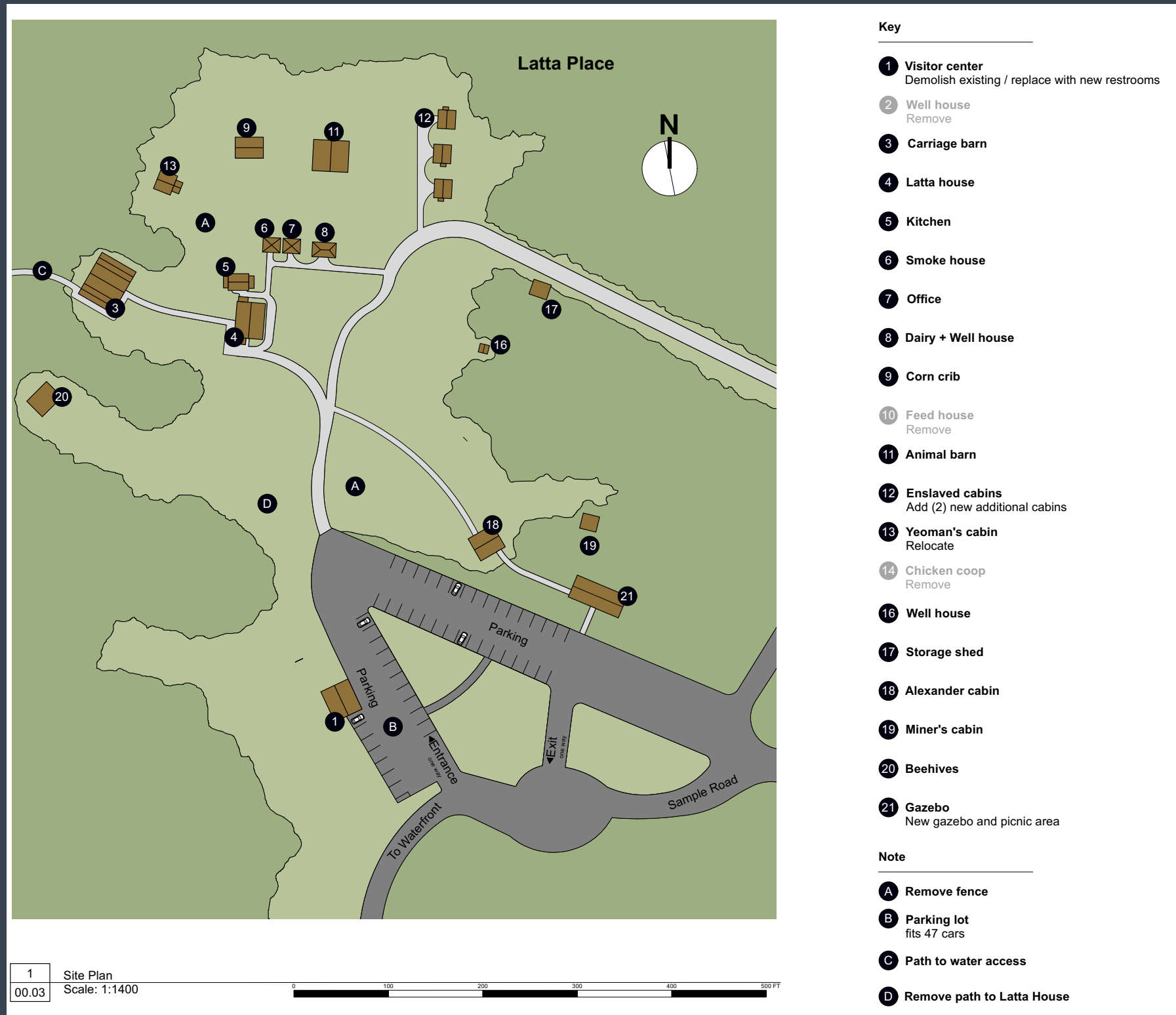
RECOMMENDATIONS

ALTERNATIVE B - POTENTIAL DESIGNS



RECOMMENDATIONS

ALTERNATIVE C - SITE PLAN



- No Visitor Center, new restroom facilities
- New gazebo for outdoor gatherings and programming
- Interpreter lead tours of the site with living history demonstrations
- All historic buildings open to public, some with interior exhibits

RECOMMENDATIONS

ALTERNATIVE C - DESIGN INSPIRATION



living history
demonstrations



interactive, tactile
experiences



located within
historic structures



RECOMMENDATIONS

ALTERNATIVE C - POTENTIAL DESIGNS



RECOMMENDATIONS

PUBLIC ART

